A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, November 11. 1707.

IN examining the approaching Strife of Parties, which I have said are so fatal, and threaten our Peace in the Transactions of the present Parliament, I was coming to those which relate to the Union in particular ——— But say some, there are greater Divisions to be brought upon the Stage before that, and your great Ones are a going to fall out with, and accuse one another; and when these Knaves fall out, honest Men may hear of their Goods.

To this I must say something by Way of Digression, but I hope very material to the Purpose; especially, Gentlemen, if you would but examine a little the Truth of it, and think the Consideration of it worth your Concern.

At present, Gentlemen, I live a great Way off of you, and out of the Hearing of a great many things, which occur almost 400 Miles *North* ——— And it would be very impertinent to tell you so, if it were not to mind you of some things relating to this Head; but shall I crave the Liberty to say something, that very nearly concerns you, tho' it come a great Way.

There are a great Variety of suggested Stories spread about, even to these *Northern* Parts, of the mighty Fractions, Strifes, and Contentions, which shall happen in *England* even in this approaching Parliament: How the Nation shall fall all into Parties and Factions, Strifes and Contentions, one accusing another, bandying and siding, struggling and striving, to pull down and set up, supplant and expose one another.

Whether there be any thing in these Reports, or no, is not at all to my Purpose? But

I have made a few Observations upon these things, which perhaps may be for your Edification, and upon that Score I think my self oblig'd to communicate them.

1. These Reports *do already*, and should they be true in Fact, should the Consequence prove them just, *they will much more* discourage, discountenance, and heartily afflict all honest good Men, who have a sincere Regard to the Interest of the Government, the Honour and Safety of the QUEEN's Majesty, or the Prosperity of this Nation; as such things having been long struggled, which good Men began to hope, Peace and Union had gotten the Victory over this evil Spirit, and that by Prayer and Fasting, I mean, the long Earnestness and Exercise of the Nation, this Devil had been cast out.

2. In the next Place, these Reports are exceeding pleasant and grateful to our Enemies, to the Disturbers of the Nation's Peace, who in this Case show their Joy at our Follies, and insult us with the Consequences—Industriously they hand about the Reports of these things, and sufficiently add to the Circumstances.

And shall I tell you, Gentlemen, in the *South*, what they say of you in the *North*; for here we have *Jacobites*, *High-Flyers*, and Peace-Abhorrers, not a few, as well as among you, and just as ill-natur'd—I'll tell you what their present Discourse is.

The News they spread, the secret Whispers of the Party are these——That at this Parliament there will be great Strife and strong Struggles, and, *which pleases them best*, that it will be all among the *Whigs*, that the *Whigs* will fall out with one another, accuse, censure, and charge one another, impeach and complain of one another; and what then?

'Tis worth noting to you, and that is the End of the thing; what Joy this is to the Party, what great Hopes they concieve of the Consequences of such Factions, what Expectations they have from the Confusions, which such things must necessarily follow, and several Uses are to be made of it?

Do your Enemies concieve such Joy at your Breaches, Gentlemen? Are they so flush'd with the Hopes of your falling out with one another? It is then impossible to form a better Argument in the World, to perswade us to an earnest, sincere Application of Peace, never to give them the Advantage they expect, never give them Opportunity to laugh at the most foolish, and incongruous of all the Measures, this Age has yet been drawn into and which predict too plainly the Destruction of the very Name of *Whigism*.

Whigs fall out! *Whigs* quarrel with one another! Preposterous Policy! Have you no Enemies to laugh at you, none that privately watch to ruin you? Are all the Arguments formerly us'd to make the Nation unite, forgotten? Had you not united, you had not been now a Party, you had not been *Whigs*; you had long since been broken and undone; you had been so far from making the formidable Figure you now appear in, that your had made no Figure at all; you had been tack'd to the Millstone of Tyranny, and thrown into the Sea of *High-Flying* Destruction?

Whigs fall out! Madness beyond the Superlatives of *Bedlam*, *asking Pardon for the Word*; 'tis a Kin to the unnatural Lewdness, lately making so much Noise in the Town; 'tis the Sodomy of Politicks, 'tis pleasing the worst and meanest of your Lusts, *I mean*, *Revenge* upon one another.

Whigs fall out! Unsufferable Folly! The Extreme of blind Fury, and a certain Token of your Ignorance in your own Circumstances; and much more your Ignorance of the Enemies Strength, and of the Snares laid to draw you into Mischief.

Whigs fall out! Unhappy *English* Men! Wott You, what are you doing? That you are recognizing Tyranny, unravelling the Revolution, cursing King *William*, calling your selves Fools of nineteen Years standing; that you are upbraiding your selves with the lost Treasure, and ill-spent Blood of the late, and the present War; that you are acknowledging, you murther'd King *James*, and opening the Door to Deposing your Soveraign, and reponing a spurious abjur'd Generation.

But what if a *Whig* breaks the Law, says One now, must he not be punish'd, because *Whigs* must not fall out; this is a new fashion'd

fashion? Doctrine, and a fine Scheme indeed, under Pretence of uniting together; and that *Whigs* must not fall out, you will have the Party protect one another in Mismanagements and Depredations upon the Publick.

This is a very specious Show of reasoning against the Uniting of the present Interests, and perhaps may lead away several; but I shall make no Difficulty in clearing it up, since to distinguish things rightly, will clear it up all; and as 'tis for Want of clear distinguishing in these Cases, that we run into many of our State Errors, and National Mistakes, so it shall no more pass for an Objection; that because the Union of the honest Men among the *Whigs* is absolutely necessary, that therefore Knaves must be protected, and Injuries to the Publick go unpunish'd: And of this you may expect to hear farther.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have a Debate before me for this Part of the Paper, which the Author of the *Rehearsal* has open'd the Door for in the World, and which I have undertaken to answer him upon, if he please to go on.

Viz. Whether there cannot be a happy Union among us in *Britain*, without a Union of Principles?

But I must adjourn the Debate a little, to speak to a new Question which he has advanc'd in the World,

Whether the *Jure Divino* of Monarchy is not proved from the Antiquity of it; and that because Monarchy was in the World before Common-Wealths, therefore they are only of Divine Original.

But I think, with Submission to Mr. *Rehearsal*, this is not the Main of the Question, and therefore I would humbly propose to him to state this Question another Way, and if he pleases to take it thus——In the Answer to which will manifestly appear the Design of the Doctrine.

Whether suppose, Monarchy was the first Government in the World, therefore Kings are absolute, and may tyrannize over their People?

Whether suppose, Monarchy was the first Government in the World, therefore the People must not be allow'd to repell Violence with Force?

When he has taken up the Point thus fairly, I shall undertake to prove, that a People oppress'd and abus'd by the Lust, Tyranny and arbitrary Will of even a Legal Prince, may take up Arms in Defence of their Liberty, may dethrone, depose, or dispose of that Tyrant, and establish their own Liberty, by setting up another Prince in their Room, or erecting any other reasonable Government, in the Stead of it——And I'll undertake to prove,

1. That the Nature of Government implies it.

2. That all Nations have practis'd it.

3. That GOD Himself has approv'd of it.

4. And that if it be not so, then there is not one Lawful Monarch now Reigning in the World, nor has there been One since the Line of King *David*.

After this, I shall state another Method for Mr. *Rehearsal* to go upon, if he will please to stand by his Argument, and bring it to a Head.

That supposing for Argument Sake only, that all he tells us of the Original of Monarchy were true; That it was in its Original Sacred, and in its Exercise Absolute; that an undisputed Obedience was required, and that to resist, were to resist the Ordinance of GOD.

This cannot affect us in these Ages of the World, unless he can prove, for any Prince now reigning, an un-interrupted Succession of Blood, from some Monarch who had such a Divinely Inflicted Original; and that therefore to push his Argument